adopting proper blasting technique, washing of coal etc. are some of the various efforts made to improve quality of coal.

(d) Availability of new coal resources are established by Regional exploration carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI). Apart from it, Promotional (Regional) Exploration is also carried out by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), Central Mines Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) and GSI to identify new coal occurrences.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Under the present laws coal mining including exploration can only be done by public sector companies-except for specified captive purposes.

VRS in BSNL and MTNL

†2408. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce voluntary retirement scheme in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that MTNL had introduced voluntary retirement scheme for its employees working in its offices situated in Delhi and Mumbai;

(d) if so, present status thereof; and

(e) by when, Government would completely ban voluntary retirement scheme?

THE MINISTER OF .STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir, there is no proposal for bringing out Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited at present. However, in so far as MTNL is concerned, the VRS scheme framed has not been implemented so far.

(e) Presently there is no proposal to ban Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.